

**Approved 08-09-05**  
**KING COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**TUESDAY, JULY 12, 2005**  
**EXCHANGE BUILDING CONFERENCE ROOM 6A**

**Members Present:** James Nobles, Allan Panitch, Ron Sterling, Gwendolyn Williams, Eugene Wan, Nancy Witherbee (awaiting confirmation),

**Members Absent:** Joshua Freed (unexcused), Melody Cecilia James (excused), Helen Nilon (excused), Eleanor Owen (excused)

**Guests Present:** Linda Brown, KCASAAB Liaison; Susan Mowrey, VCC/FWYFS; Peggy Mitchell, Parent Advocate/Developmental Stages Committee

**Staff Present:** Liz Gilbert, Rhoda Naguit, Jean Robertson, Barbara Vannatter

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**I. WELCOME & INTRODUCTION**

Board Chair Ron Sterling convened the meeting at 4:38 p.m. and asked everyone to introduce him/herself.

**II. MINUTES**

Jim Nobles made a motion which was seconded by Gwen Williams to approve the June 14, 2005 as submitted. The motion was approved unanimously.

**III. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

**A. Board Resignation Due to Illness**

Board Chair Ron Sterling informed the board about the resignation of Howard Miller from the board due to health concern. Howard suffered a minor stroke last month and his wife had advised him to slow down. With much regret, the board accepted Howard's resignation.

Howard served as Board Chair from December 2001 to June 2004. He will be greatly missed.

**B. Letters Needed Regarding King County Mental Health Funding**

Board Chair Sterling will email the board about sending a letter to the governor regarding mental health funding.

#### **IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

##### **A. Legislative Advocacy and Public Affairs Committee – Eleanor Owen**

Not present to give report.

##### **B. Nominations Update – Rhoda Naguit**

Two people have expressed interest to serve on the board. Rhoda Naguit has sent them a copy of the application form and some pertinent information about the board. Board applicants are required to attend at least three meetings before any action could be taken on their application.

Nancy Dow-Witherbee is awaiting Council confirmation. As soon as her board appointment is introduced by her district Councilmember Jane Hague to the Law, Justice, and Human Services, she will be scheduled for confirmation hearing.

##### **C. Quality Council – Liz Gilbert**

Liz Gilbert gave a report on Quality Council (QC) in lieu of Helen Nilon who was absent due to illness. The Council will discuss the 2005-2006 Quality Council Work Plan at the next meeting.

At last month's QC meeting, Steve Collins of the Quality Review Team (QRT) gave a presentation on Vacation of Criminal Records. He reported the difficulties faced by persons with mental illnesses in finding employment and housing when they also have records of criminal convictions. To address this issue, the QRT has begun a project to assist these people to vacate criminal records. Eligibility of the clients will depend on the nature of the crime committed. A list of crimes that could not be vacated was handed out.

The board will invite Steve Collins to make a presentation on Vacation of Criminal Convictions at the August 9, 2005 board meeting. KCASAAB Chair Linda Brown had also expressed interest to invite Steve Collins to do the same presentation at the meeting of the King County Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Administrative Board on August 18, 2005.

##### **D. Recovery Initiatives Committee – Eleanor Owen**

Not present to give report.

## **V. REVIEW OF RECOVERY PLAN**

Copies of the Recovery Plan have been mailed out to board members, stakeholders and other interested parties for comments and feedback.

Jean Robertson stated that timing is critical in approving the Recovery Committee Charter, Recovery Plan, and the revised recovery ordinance in order to be in the agenda for the September 8 or 15 meeting of the County Council. The Recovery Committee Charter will be placed in the website as soon as the board approves it.

Jean noted that some detailed recommendations were not incorporated in the Recovery Plan because it will be part of the implementation plan. She further explained that the Recovery Plan is a long range plan with clear goals and it is intended to result in real system change focused on recovery. The Recovery Plan will be attached to the revised recovery ordinance.

Liz Gilbert gave a brief historical background on the development of Recovery Ordinance for mental health. The Division had communicated with the County Council of its intention to update the ordinance. In order to do this, some language will need to be repealed and replaced to reflect the current publicly funded mental health system and new knowledge and experience about recovery from mental illnesses.

Barbara Vannatter walked the board through the document and noted the highlights of the Recovery Plan. The Recovery Plan is envisioned to transform the King County mental health system to a system focused on recovery and promote resiliency. The Plan is client-focused. It is aimed to assist client to achieve their goals e.g. employment, housing, etc. and to let them know that recovery is achievable. The Plan has three phases of implementation which includes:

- Phase I – Create a Shared Vision of Recovery (2005-2006)

In the first phase of the plan, the following groups will be activated to:

- Recovery Plan Coordination, a staff driven group, chaired by Jean Robertson. The role of this group is to ensure a synchronized and coordinated move towards the goal of the Plan where activities of the various groups are consistent and policy and programming decisions are consistent with recommendations.
- Recovery Initiative Committee, a standing committee of the King County Mental Health Advisory Committee, currently chaired by Eleanor Owen. The committee reviews and makes recommendations related to the

implementation of Recovery Plan and on the revised King County Recovery Ordinance.

- Financial Re-alignment Workgroup is composed of Division staff, provider staff and other stakeholders. The work group will design and develop reimbursement models and realigning Division's priorities with the providers in the implementation of recovery initiatives which include housing, employment, and criminal justice diversion.
- Consumer Group, an exclusive group for consumers of the King County Mental Health Plan, with one Division RPC staff liaison. Jean emphasized the need for a strong consumer voice and participation at all levels of planning and policy development.
- Recovery Implementation Group, composed of representatives from all stakeholders, consumers, advocates, agency staff, Division staff, and other interested parties. The workgroup will develop concept definitions and system outcomes, establish workforce training, explore promising and best practices and develop a plan to increase consumer involvement at all levels of the systems.

- Phase 2: Initiate Change (2006-2008)

The emphasis at this point is implementation of the key tasks identified in Phase 1 of the Plan. Training of clinical staff and middle managers on staffing models and the impacts on day-to-day operations will be implemented at this stage among others.

- Phase 3: Increase in Depth and Complexity (2008-2010)

The Plan calls for continued participation in promoting stigma reduction initiatives through public service announcements and newspaper articles, advanced training on recovery-oriented services and systems, technical assistance and knowledge transfer between agencies about recovery practices, continued evolution of performance measures and practice guidelines, and implementation of policy and resource changes.

A question was asked how the staff would know that this Plan will be successfully implemented. Jean said that the Division is aware system change takes time. This is the reason why the implementation of the Plan is in three phases. The biggest challenge faced is to ensure that provider staff, its clinicians, and stakeholders are trained. With the current fast turnover of staff at some agencies, it could be difficult to convince some providers to have their clinicians undergo training.

Nancy Dow-Witherbee recommended adding on page 6 under Recovery Committee Recommendation..... in addition to graduating from treatment, “clients should contribute at the system level as well as at the level of their personal recovery.”

James Nobles made a motion which was seconded by Eugene Wan to approve the revised ordinance and the Recovery Plan in principle and to forward this to the County Council. The motion was put to vote – five voted to approve the motion and one abstained.

The board was encouraged to read the Plan, send feedback, and endorse the Plan to others.

## **VI. LIAISON REPORTS**

### **James Nobles: Chronic Populations Action Council**

CPAC Meeting this month is cancelled.

### **Gwendolyn Williams: Therapeutic Health Services**

No report at this time.

## **VII. BOARD AND COMMUNITY CONCERNS/NEW BUSINESS**

Linda Brown, KCASAAB Chair, passed out copies of the brochures for Recovery Garden. If anyone would like to purchase a cobblestone for loved ones or self, fill out the form and return it to the 24-Hour Helpline with the payment. The cost per cobblestone is \$35.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Attested by:

Rhoda A. Naguit  
Recording Secretary

Ron Sterling  
Board Chair